

## REMARKS

### *Status of the Claims*

Claims 1, 3-14, 16, and 18 are now pending in the present application, with Claims 1, 7, and 14 being independent. Claims 19, 21 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

### *Requested Action*

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of Claims 1, 3-14, 16 and 18.

### *Claim Rejections*

Claims 19, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, these claims have been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejections moot.

### *Conclusion*

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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